

S.A.Scout ASSOCIATION

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"Study the individual fads and characteristics of your boys and having found them, encourage their development on these directions; then when advising the boys as to their future line of life you will be in a position to direct the square boy to the square hole and the round boy to the round one. Don't, as many people do, make him aim for some sphere for which he is not really fitted. Aim for making each individual into a useful member of society, and the whole will automatically come on to a high standard."

- B.-P.

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This Months Quote:

*"And so. As Tiny Tim observed, God Bless Us,
Every One!"*

(From A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens)

Editorial:

Well the end of the year has come upon us all too quickly. As we reflect we may find that many of our resolutions were not achieved and the progress we'd hoped for did not happen, we lost a number of youngsters through various reasons and there were difficulties getting to camp or going on hikes, passing tests, badges, committee problems and so on and then there is our time! Nothing is different, this could well be the lament of Scouters over the last 98 years. Looking at the whole we see that millions of boys and girls have been a part of this great Movement, some

for a short time, others much longer. Some have achieved the top awards, others came along for the fun, the camps and hikes. There are troops still running since Scouting began; others no longer remembered. Above all, behind this vibrant, living Movement is :

You the Scouter

No matter how new you are to the game of Scouting nor how old you are to it, your reward comes from knowing that in some way you have been responsible for training and showing our youth the better ways to live life. The challenges facing our nation this century are mind boggling – moral degeneration, family instability, unemployment, violence, drugs, child abuse, crime, poverty. It seems there is no answer to them, but ah, yes there is: **You and Scouting!** To you all we unreservedly say a big **thank you!**

When it comes to Scouting, none of us can say we know it all but we can say that successful Troops run on the Patrol System (see page 1 of the new Scout Trail) If you have no other goals for the coming year, make this one a must. The System works equally well for our Group and District organisations. Try it.

We use these pages to develop the four pillars of Scouting, i.e. **Character, Health, Handicraft** in the individual, and **Citizenship** through use of these skills in Service.

We have articles on boat, rucsac and kite making as well as baking for profit.

In keeping with the season we include a Christmas cake. Some of these recipes have been used with great success in poor communities where the only oven is a pot and a primus stove. Some of the ladies and men have literally pulled themselves out of the mire of poverty and through much hard work run small businesses. Although we have little feedback on these articles we do believe our Scouts should be taught to develop entrepreneurial skills and self reliance.

Self-made (camping etc) equipment - rather than purchased designer label equipment - should be encouraged. We know a Scouter, whose sons and grandsons still proudly use a two-man tent he made for one of his badge tests 50 years ago.

On the other end of the scale we should realise that digital and Information Technology also have a real place in modern Scouting – it is all part of being prepared and should be *part* of our training.

To all our Scouters and readers we hope that 2005 is rich in blessings for them and their families and that their Groups flourish and grow from strength to strength.

Keep Scouting, it **is** the best thing to do.

John Waterhouse : Editor

Note: Area Headquarters and Scout Shop will be closed from:

10 December 2004 until 10 January 2005



Area Commissioner's Brief

I always find that when we get to this time of the year, one tends to feel very drained from the activities of the past year. This is definitely psychological because when January comes around one feels refreshed and ready to take on the new year.

The past year has been a very busy and eventful one for all and I am sure that there have been many achievements in your groups which you can be proud of. On the other hand some of you may not have achieved much as a result of various factors.

In looking back at the achievements of the Area I am reminded of the Vision and Strategic Plan which were launched in February at the Scouters Conference, the Scouters Resource CD and the new edition of the Scout Trail. I do believe that if these three tools are used properly, there should be no excuse for any Pack or Troop not to achieve anything and that most if not all cubs and scouts should advance through the advancement levels at a steady pace. I ask that all scouters revisit the Strategic Plan and evaluate their Pack and Troop's achievements this past year and to identify where improvements need to be brought about. We as an Area will be doing the same.

In the printed edition of CWS we once again published the Outdoor Activity Regulations and Procedures. As this is the electronic version, I encourage you to access these regulations on our website. This supercedes the one printed in the last edition. Please read it and keep the important telephone numbers at hand. Also printed elsewhere in this newsletter are invitations to attend the Scouter's Conference and Scouts Own. The Conference will once again be a very important one as we prepare for the Centenary Year of 2007. I ask that every group is represented by the Group Chairperson and Scouters. We will be doing a presentation on the 2007 Jamboree as well as other International and local events planned. At first it was thought that we should invite one Patrol Leader from each Troop to attend. However, because of space we have decided against this. The scouts will instead be invited to another forum where we will update on these events.

I have pleasure in announcing the following appointments:

- ❖ Mike Duthie – DC Two Oceans District
- ❖ Paul Muspratt- Williams – DC Tablebay District
- ❖ Nimmy Abrahams – AAC Scout Programme

These scouters have important roles to fulfill in the Movement and I trust that you will give them your full support.

I take this opportunity of thanking all who have contributed in some way to scouting in the Area. Your contributions have been very important in the development of the youth in our care and I trust that you will continue in the New Year and the years ahead.

My thanks also to all the Commissioners, Scouters, Headquarters Staff, Area Executive and the National Office for the support you have given me during the past year.

We as a Movement and particular here in the Western Cape have big challenges ahead of us and I believe that if we all work together we will be able to achieve our goals.

In ending may I wish you well over the holidays. Whatever you are doing – attending the Adventure, summer camps, holidaying with the family or just staying home, have a wonderful and safe time.

Happy holidays!!

See you around the campfire!.

Brian A. February

Area Commissioner





SCOUTING IN AMERICA

(Steven Parsley)

Summer Camp USA provides young South Africans with the opportunity to travel to America and explore new cultures. Thousands of young American children go to camp each year to learn new skills and activities, taught to them by counsellors recruited from around the world. Camps run annually from June-August and camp directors are now hiring staff aged 19-27yrs with various skills; and experience working with children. Steve Parsley, a Scout and recent Summer Camp counsellor shares his story below.

"I've been involved in scouting most my life. I started at Cub where I received my Leaping Wolf, then followed by Scouts and received my Springbok in 2000. I then went on to get my warrant and I'm still active as an Assistant Troop Scouter.

Scouts gave me a chance to go camping, hiking, rock climbing, canoeing, orienteering pioneering and many other outdoor activities. Also, it taught me to work in a team not only as a member but a leader as well and to be involved in my own community. Through Scout I heard about *Summer Camp USA* when I was about 16. Since then I knew I wanted to go on Summer Camp. It was almost as if scouting was preparing me to be a camp counsellor.

I went to camp for the first time this summer. It was the most amazing experience of my life. I was based in a camp in upper state New York called Frost Valley. My job on camp was sports and games instructor and I worked with a girl from New Zealand organising activities for the kids on camp. Our camp offered many activities such as waterfront, wall climbing, hiking, kayaking, horse riding, photography and we even had an on camp radio station. There were over 600 hundred kids on camp at one time, and over three hundred staff from all over the world. I've made an entire new circle of friends from all over Europe, Australia, New Zealand and USA. I was on camp for about 11 weeks, and then travel around New York and New Jersey for a week afterwards travelling and staying with friends from that I had made from camp.

As I said before, it was the most amazing experience of my life and I would recommend to any body that is involved in scouting to definitely go on Summer Camp in the USA."

For more information on *Summer Camp USA*, please contact SASTS Working Adventures on Cape Town, 021 418 3794 or Johannesburg 011 325 5899. Regular talks and presentations are being held, check out our website at www.sasts.org.za

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA SUMMER CAMPS

Scouters who are between 18 to 30 years old can apply to attend the 2005 Boy Scouts of America Summer camps. You will be paid a salary while at the camp but will be responsible for your own airfare, registration fee of \$135.00 and medical/accident insurance.

Application forms are available from the Area Office.

Please contact the Area Manager Mrs Tracy Nel at 5916842 Or 5916843.

ITALIAN SCOUTS AND GUIDES MEET WITH THE POPE

OUR PROMISE WITH YOU

Rome, Saint Peter's Square

October 23, 2004

(story provided by AGESCI)

AGESCI - Associazione Guide e Scouts Cattolici Italiani

(Italian Catholic Scout and Guide Association)

MASCI - Movimento Adulti Scout Cattolici Italiani

(Italian Catholic Movement of Scout Adults)

For the first time in the history of the Italian Scout and Guide movement, all of its members, Cubs, Brownies, Scouts, Guides, Rangers, Rovers, Leaders and Scout Adults, met with the Holy Father in a private audience. It was a major celebration of the 30th anniversary of AGESCI, and the 50th anniversary of MASCI, and most importantly the 26 years of the Pontificate of Pope John Paul II.

This Pope has always held a great affection and closeness to Scouts. AGESCI members, together with Scout Adults belonging to MASCI, renewed their Promise with the Holy Father. They wanted to express not only their fidelity to Scouting, but also their full acceptance of the Gospel and their commitment to be witness to Christ and as actors in the new evangelism.

St. Peter's square was peacefully invaded by over 40,000 Scouts and Guides wearing their distinctive blue shirts. Songs and dances belonging to the Scout and Guide tradition encouraged participation in a celebrative atmosphere.

Audio and video clips of the Pope's speeches to AGESCI at several national events were broadcast. Presentations on the implications of the Promise in Baden-Powell's writings were given. Priests who historically have given a special contribution to the Movement were also heard, including Father Ruggi d'Aragona (who founded the Italian Guide Movement) and Father Tarcisio (son of Blessed Beltrame Quattrocchi).



The youngest Italian Brownie and a Rover who served abroad spoke about the meaning of the Promise. A leader who was born in the same year as AGESCI was asked to speak about fidelity to the Promise. The lives of four Scouts who remained true to the values of the Promise were presented for reflection, namely Blessed Marcel Callò, Wincenty Stefan Frelichowski, Luigi and Maria Beltrame Quattrocchi.

Chiara Sapigni and Lino Lacagnina, chairpersons of AGESCI's governing board said: "We had the pleasure to see an extraordinary participation to this event. This is a witness to the fact that AGESCI Scouts and Guides truly and completely live by the values of the Faith and have a special, filial relationship with Pope John Paul II".

Nellina Rapisarda and Piero Gavinelli, AGESCI National Guide and Scout Commissioners, expressed their wish that "the paternal blessing of the Holy Father might help to foster the perception of Scouting and Guiding among younger generations as a modern and fascinating experience. In this way, they will be able to make a better contribution towards the creation of a society better than the one they found".



World Scout Committee member Gualtiero Zanolini, conveyed greetings to His Holiness on behalf of 28 million Scouts around the world. Photo: Fotografia Felici



The tradition continues: The axe and log

A workshop of adult leaders from five districts was held at Gilray on 13 November 2004 to discuss training matters that affect them. One of the slides that was shown at the beginning of the workshop reads like this: *"There is no such a thing as a stupid question"* and the axe and log symbol was inserted on the slide. The immediate question that followed was: *"Where does the symbol of axe and log come from and what does it mean?"* Quite honestly, I did not know the answer and my response was that I have the right to remain silent because I believe that there is such a thing as a stupid answer. This article is the response to the question.

The axe and log symbol has been used at the Gilwell Park in England since the early 1920's. Gilwell Park was characterized by a great deal of practical activity during Leader training courses

and axes were prominent as *"billy cans."* Great emphasis was placed on safety with tools and axes were always expected to be masked by burying the blade in a log of wood. The example axes properly masked all over the training camp struck Mr. Francis Gidney - the Camp Chief of Gilwell as an ideal symbol to denote all that the training courses stood for.

The symbol originated when he wanted a special logo to denote Gilwell Park as opposed to Scout Headquarters. He wanted to be sure that, although the Park was part of Headquarters, it was quite different and much more associated with the outdoors and woodcraft side of Scouting rather than the *"business"* side. He therefore adopted the symbol for use on all leader training publications and letterheads.



FORTHCOMING COURSES

COURSE	CLOSING DATE	CONTACT PERSON	CONTACT NUMBER
Pack Warrant	24 January 2005	Donald Alexander	5588214
Adult Introductory	24 January 2005	Jeremy Cheney	7970288
Committee Members	15 February 2005	Ron Abrahams	7052625
Mountain Awareness	15 February 2005	Nigel Forshaw	7131535

The reading and submission of *"What is Scouting"* questionnaire is from January 2005 now compulsory pre-reading for all uniformed scouters attending Adult Introductory Course.

Scouters Conference 2005



"Towards 2007 and beyond"



Date: 6 February 2005
Venue: Peninsula Technikon
Off Modderdam Road Bellville
Time: 11h00 till 16h00
Registration starts at 10h00
Who should attend? : All uniformed scouts, LA and Group Chairpersons
Every Group must be represented by the above persons!



The Area Commissioner invites you to attend this conference as we prepare for Scouting's Centenary year in 2007.

PROGRAMME

- ❖ STRATEGIC REVUE
- ❖ CAPE WESTERN AREA'S PROFILE AND MARKETING STRATEGY
- ❖ FLEXIBLE MOBILE SCOUTERS
- ❖ PRESIDENT'S AWARD
- ❖ 2007 CENTENARY EVENTS
- ❖ 2007 WORLD JAMBOREE
- ❖ CONQUERING MOUNT EVEREST WITH ANDRE BREDENKAMP

**GUEST SPEAKER: WESTERN CAPE PREMIER
EBRAHIM RASOOL HAS BEEN INVITED.**

This Conference will provide you with updated information about:

- ❖ The 2007 Centenary Events;
 - World Jamboree
 - Gifts for Peace
 - Scouting's Sunrise Ceremony
 - SANJAMB
 - Join in Centenary
- Be the first to see the DVD Presentation inviting you to the Jamboree
- ❖ The Presidents Award - a new challenge award for scouts.
- ❖ Mobile Scouts - A new concept to assist struggling groups with training -

Coffee and Tea will be served during the registration from 10h00 till 10h45 and a light lunch during the lunch break. Please contact the Area Office before 28 January 2005 to confirm the number of persons who will be attending from your Group.

Telephone : 021 – 5916842/3 Fax: 021 – 5916849
E-Mail: capewest@scouting.org.za

Everybody attending the Conference will receive a 2007 souvenir ordered especially from England for the conference. Another first in SA.

The Desk of The AAC Scout Programme

I've officially been in office for but a few days and although I've been involved in the Scout Programme department for a few years, the seat that I am currently occupying still feels somewhat uncomfortable.

2004 has come and gone and I'm still trying to recover from this whirlwind that has just blown me apart. In many instances it has been a good year, but we have to be realistic and look at the outcomes that we so desire. Our numbers are still dwindling and we seriously need to do something about this. I am convinced that once we have attractive adventure programmes that appeal to the youth out there, we soon will have to close our doors for a short while and establish waiting lists.

I have asked the ADCs to hand me quite a bit of information early on in the New Year. Scouters therefore have to spend their summer holidays completing their planners and have the detail thereof available early in the year. The days of playing soccer on a Friday night at scouts is soon going to be something of the past. ADCs are going to do quality checks on the programmes that the CoHs and Troop Scouters deliver.

Scouters and PLs should use the Star Troop and Star Patrol requirements in expectation meetings with their patrols and CoH. In this way we will ensure that Patrol camping and hiking as well as Troop outdoor activities take place. There should be NO reason why any Troop should not attain a Bronze Award. Scouters should clearly display these requirements so that scouts can clearly see what is required of them.

I often see troops where many of the scouts are at a very low Advancement level, yet they do very well at Area and District competitions. On the other hand, I also find troops where the reverse is true. I



would like to appeal to Troop Scouters to ensure that each scout has a fair opportunity to advance him/herself, but at the same time not to simply hand out badges to our scouts. They will feel cheated if they don't really put in effort to achieve it.

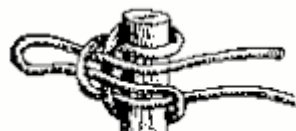
We have had phenomenal turnouts at badge courses and Area Competitions over the past few years. I am predicting that 2005 is not going to be any different and that we will more than likely see the numbers of teams growing. I am really looking forward to see those troops that have not previously made appearances, to show their faces. You will never be able to win if you don't start by entering the competition to find out what it is about.

Many scouts have shown a keen interest in the Air badges and Air activities. This interest did not come from Air scouts, but from Land and Sea scouts. I see all of us as scouts and I sincerely hope that these perceived artificial barriers that many of us have created in the past can be broken down. A few scouts have moved in the direction of completing core badges so that they can qualify for anyone of the Explorer badges. I commend them on taking the tougher route and wish to encourage more of you to follow in this way. Please note that the closing date for the Lifesaver Badge Course is/was on 1 December. If you have not entered as yet, then get in touch with the Sea Scout Base immediately.

To those of you attending the Adventure in the Cedarberg, have fun, be safe and enjoy the Adventure. To the rest of you, enjoy your summer camps and time away with your families. May I also take this opportunity to wish you and your families well over the festive season.

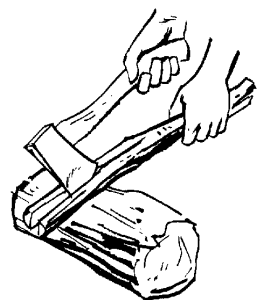
Looking forward to a fun-filled and adventurous 2005.

Nimmy Abrahams
AAC Scout Programme



highwayman's hitch

Please note the following amendment to the Diary for 2005.
The Boatsman Badge will be held on the dates set for the Helmsman Badge while the Helmsman Badge moved to the dates set for the Boatsman Badge.

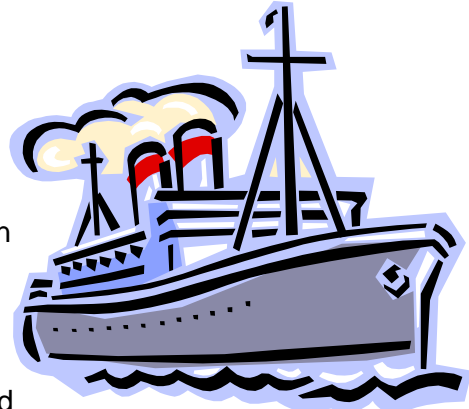


“Team Scream 2005”

Need re-motivation, skills and ideas for the pack or would just like spend time with other Pack Scouters to share ideas, then you need to be washed up on the beach at Melkbos in June to attend ‘TEAM SCREAM’.

Dates: 17 to 19 June 2005
Venue: “Oppiesee” (Melkbos)
Cost: R220

For those of you who have never attended a Team Scream before you don’t know what you are missing. This is a time when Pack Scouters from Cape Western get together to for a time of team building and learning new skills in a relaxed atmosphere. I can assure you that this will be a fun filled weekend.



Those attending will come away having had a good time, made new friends as well as taking away ideas to include in your pack programmes.

Should you wish to attend, please complete the registration form and return to Area Head Quarters, together with a deposit of R100 by no later than 28 February 2005. The balance needs to be paid by 30 April. **Forms and monies must go through HQ.**

Hope to see you all at “Team Scream”. Should you have any queries please feel free to contact me.

Donald Alexander

Phone: 558 8214 (Home) 419 4857 (Work) 083 428 6032 (Cell)
e-mail: donalex@discoverymail.co.za

Registration: Team Scream

Title:..... First Name:..... Surname:

Pack:

Address:

.....

..... Postal Code:

Phone:(H) (W) (Cell)

Fax e=mail:

Special dietary requirements:

Any Medical problems:

I enclose the deposit of R100 and undertake to pay the balance by 30 April 2005

Signed:

Received at HQ on: Receipt Number:

Shark Watch

There are about 370 living species of shark. At least 100 of these are found off the Southern African coast.

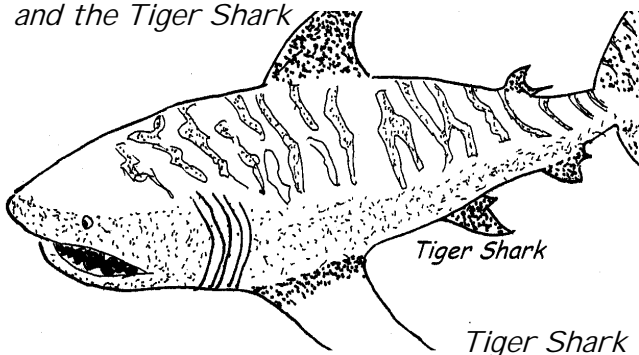
82% of shark species are less than 2m long, only those that are larger are potentially dangerous to man. This being said, the two largest, the basking shark and the whale shark - reaching up to 18m - are harmless plankton eaters.

Sharks are cartilaginous, that is, they have a skeleton consisting exclusively of cartilage. Three immense muscle groups provide their motive power and because they lack the swimming bladders found in bony fish, they must keep moving to stay afloat.

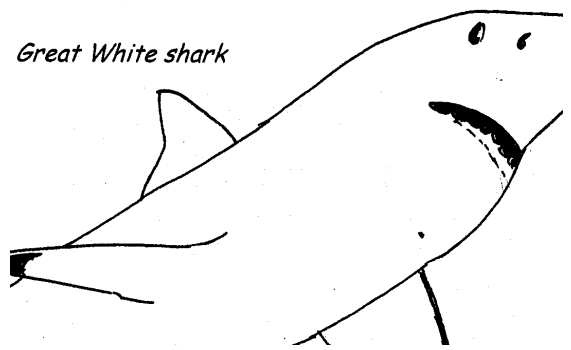
From tail to snout the shark's body is covered with thousands of small protuberances called placoid scales. This rasp-like surface will shred a man's skin in a trice.

Although their eyesight is fairly good, it is their powerful sense of smell, taste, hearing, vibration and electro reception that they use to hunt.

Shark attacks in South Africa normally involve three species: the Zambezi shark which sometimes forages up rivers (once reportedly right up to the Kruger Park), the Great White and the Tiger Shark

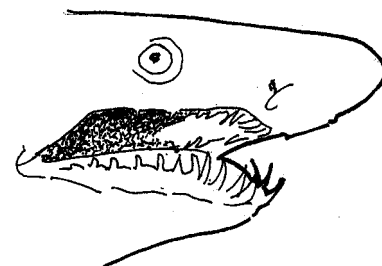


One of the most feared sharks is the protected Great White shark. Powerful, fast and fearless, they may weigh up to 4 tonnes. Even faster is the fierce deep-sea Mako shark.



Just as dangerous is the Hammerhead shark. The keen eyes are placed for efficiency at the tips of two head lobes, which are also used for balance.

A shark's mouth is literally studded with several sets of needle sharp teeth loosely set in the jaw. When a tooth is worn or broken, spares work forward and replace them.



Despite their reputation for ferocity, sharks are indiscriminating scavengers, and will swallow anything from sealions, sea turtles, birds, fish, lobsters, crabs, rubbish and people. They just bite and swallow. Some store food for weeks in their stomachs without digesting it.

Shark nets have curtailed the number of attacks substantially. Swimming in murky water and at dusk and dawn (when the feeding activity of fish is at its maximum) should be avoided.

In 1942 the troopship Nova Scotia was torpedoed off the S.African coast. 1000 men were lost presumably to sharks. Many legless bodies were found floating in the water the next morning.

An Incident at Christmas

It was the last night of our Christmas Camp and the campfire had grown quiet, even some of the younger boys were asleep. We sat looking at the embers, each with his own thoughts

“Come on Skip, give us a story”. It was Joe, P/L of the Eagles. He was 18 and this was his last troop camp.

“Ja, ja, come on Skip, make it a good one,” chorused the others.

“Well okay, but don’t forget we’ve a heavy day ahead of us tomorrow!”

“Mmm, ja, okay Skip, let’s have the story.”

“Well my story took place a long time ago, in fact when I was your age.

Skip Baker was the Scoutmaster of the largest Sea Scout Troop in Johannesburg and every second year-end he planned a grand camp for his boys. They went to Durban, Victoria Falls and so on.

Sometimes he would take a few senior Scouts from the smaller troops to help out and also enjoy the adventure. That year he invited me along.

The camp, he informed me, would be in the Melsetter area of the Eastern Highlands of Rhodesia, or Zimbabwe, as we know it today. We would camp on the edge of the Chimanimani Mountains which was made up of a series of wild uninhabited ranges that formed the boundary between Zimbabwe and Mozambique.

I, with two of his P/Ls would be able to do our Venturer Badge hike for our Queen Scout Award, which was the forerunner of the Springbok Scout Badge. We had to plan it all before leaving.

Jacey, Billy and myself spent the following couple of weeks planning and doing our research. We decided to make for the Gossamer Falls deep in the mountain ranges. What made the Falls attractive was that no one had ever apparently reached them on foot before, only Air Force helicopter crews had been there and they had described the Falls as being truly spectacular. We estimated the hike would take us 5 days – we would be back a day before Christmas.

The Chimanimani campsite was set on one of the very few flat pieces of ground in the area; a mountain stream cascaded from the high peaks creating natural swimming pools close by. All around were natural riverine forests and vegetation. The main hall on the site was a large natural stone structure suitable for rainy day activities.

The walls of the hall were decorated with Scouting memorabilia and photographs, one in particular attracted my attention, it was a picture of two sturdy young Scouts, about our age, smiling broadly, their arms around each other’s shoulder in a firm bond of

friendship. The only caption was their names, Jimmy Ross and Joseph Nyati and the date two years back.

Five days before Christmas we were as ready as we could be to tackle the Gossamer Falls.

We set off early in the morning and almost immediately began the strenuous climb up the Hadange Pass. A Tiring few hours later we eventually reached the top and the beginning of the Bundi plain following a path Mozambicans used to travel to and from their homes.

At the end of the Plain we descended Skeleton Pass and entered really wild country, the place of leopards, eland, baboon, sable and elephant.

Our map, the best available at the time, consisted of a single colour print which had been fairly well hand-drawn but contained inaccuracies which led to us spending much time being lost in riverine forests and going up false tributaries.

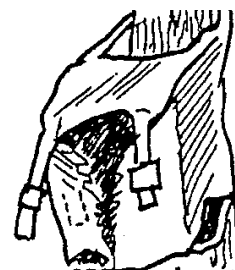
Eventually, two days later, we got to the top of a long spur and caught our first glimpse of the Gossamer Falls, a day later than we’d planned!

They were everything we expected them to be. The river flowed over the edge of a cliff hundreds of metres high and as it fell the mass of water broke into a gossamer-like spray. An awesome sight.

We were jubilant but the task was not over, for proof of our ‘conquest’ we had to go down to the river, take a photo and swim in the pool below the Falls.

Leaving our kitbags securely tied together we packed a daypack and headed down the thickly wooded spur. It was steep, hot and humid. After what seemed an age we finally got to the river.

Leaving our daypack tied to a tree to mark the way out we scrambled and half swam upstream until we reached the large pool. It was idyllic, we swam, laughed, joked and dried out on the rocks before making our way back to the daypack – well satisfied and ready for a well deserved snack.



The daypack hung in tatters from the tree and the food was mostly gone. Worst of all only a few bits of our map lay on the bank.

We realised then that our mountain and bushcraft skills were about to be put to the extreme test.

We made our way to the top of the spur, fortunately our kitbags were okay. It was mid afternoon when we set off hoping we would recognise some landmarks or get to a path along the way.

To make up time we descended into a river valley. Hours of hacking our way through thick undergrowth made us realise our mistake. We'd already crossed a number of smaller tributaries and had come to a major junction. What now? Truth was we were lost.

Despondently we sat down on the sandy banks to plan our next move. The riverbank was covered with large dish-shaped indentations, very nice to sit on until Jacey remarked "Hey guys don't look now but we're sitting on elephant tracks!"

Startled we jumped up, it was true, they were. Darkness was setting in and it was too late to move so we set up camp and collected enough wood to keep a large protective fire going through the night.

What a miserable night it was, the sounds of the bush and river made us believe that herds of elephant were rushing to trample us and in the distance the unmistakable burping sounds of hippo added to our discomfort.



Dawn could not come quickly enough for us to reconnoitre the banks to find a way out. There wasn't any. Going back was not an option; climbing out was just about impossible. I must admit I prayed very hard that morning.

After about an hour we stopped to discuss our predicament, we had to come up with some plan.

That was when I saw them, two guys in Scout uniform (yes we hiked in uniform in those days) about 150m along the riverbank. Somehow they looked familiar but I passed it off as we waved and shouted madly, thank goodness they saw us and waved back.

Instead of waiting for us they pointed up the side of the gorge and beckoned us to follow them.

With renewed strength we rushed to the spot and found a broad elephant path snaking its way out of the river gorge - I had been along there in our earlier search and would have sworn there was not path but there it was. There was no time to ponder this mystery as our two guides were quite a long way up the path already; we could not afford to lose them - not now!

The climb out was easy as elephants instinctively take the best routes. Once on top our guides turned occasionally to beckon us on. As we grew tired they would slow down and when we stopped for a breather they did too but they never allowed us to catch up. It must be the weather I thought looking at the clouds banking up or more likely they want to be back for Christmas.

So it carried on throughout the day, forests, rivers, mountain ridges and open plains. All we could do was follow and put all our faith in them.

Towards nightfall we came to a major path and recognised Skeleton Pass just ahead. It was unwise to carry on so we signalled to our guides to let them know we were going to camp down.

Acknowledging our signal they showed us that they were going on - they would probably let everyone know that we were on our way.

Early the next morning, we climbed the Pass, crossed the Bundi plain and scrambled down Hadange to reach camp that afternoon.

In the hall we found Skip talking to the local D.C. "Good to see you boys," he said with obvious relief, "this is Mr Ross the local D.C."

We saluted and told our story, Ross looked at us quizzically.

"If it hadn't been for your two Scouts, Mr Ross, I'm sure we would have been in serious trouble."

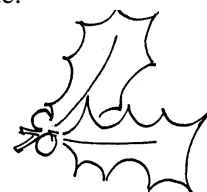
"What two Scouts?" he asked.

Pointing to the photograph of the two Scouts on the wall, I said, "those two, they really saved our bacon."

Ross looked at me strangely and said, "You must be mistaken son, there were no Scouts hiking in this area. Those two lads, Jimmy and Joseph, were killed by a rogue elephant two years ago in the area where you were hiking. Broke my heart, they were two of the finest Scouts I've ever known."

"But, but I ... we... we saw them" I stammered.

"Jimmy was my son!" he said, wiping a tear from his eye. He turned and walked outside.



Apple fruit cake

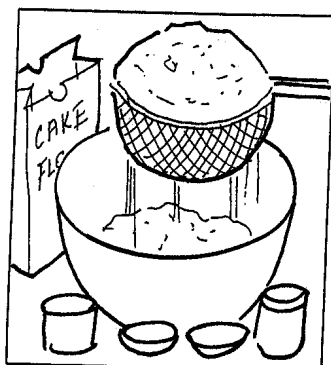
By now you are too late to bake a traditional Christmas Fruit Cake or pudding. But don't despair we have a fast fruity recipe ideal for the occasion. It doesn't need maturing time and it is ready to ice or eat right away. This recipe makes one 22cm cake which will take 20 minutes to prepare and an hour to bake – Enjoy – Merry Christmas!

Ingredients:

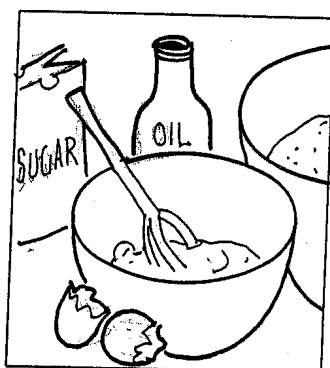
250g cake flour
5ml baking powder
5ml bicarbonate of soda
10ml ground cinnamon
5ml ground ginger
10ml ground mixed spice

200g castor sugar
3 large eggs
200ml sunflower oil

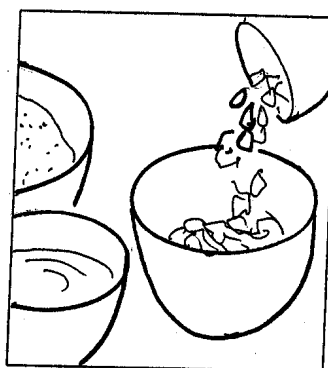
300ml grated apple
(excess juice squeezed out)
250g fruit and nut mix
100g sultanas
60ml apricot juice
85ml apricot jam



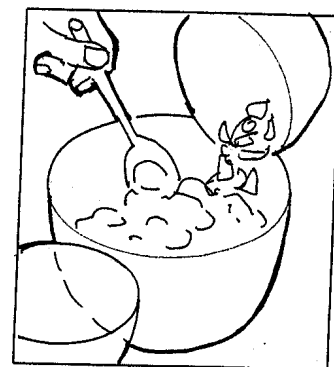
1. Sift the dry ingredients together.



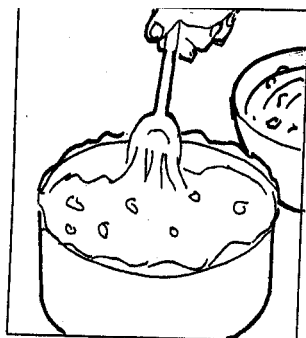
2. Beat sugar, oil and Eggs well together



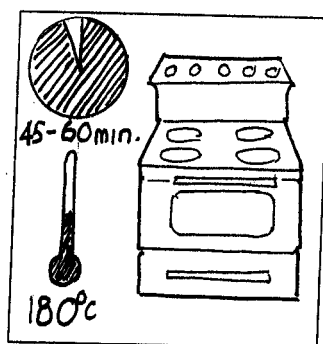
3. Mix apple, fruit and nut cake mix, sultanas apricot juice and jam together



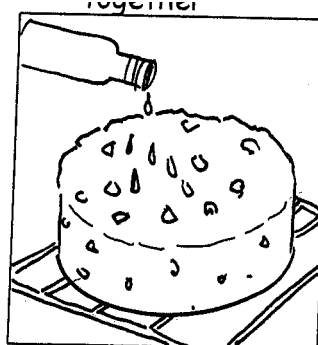
4. Mix the two mixtures alternately into the dry ingredients.



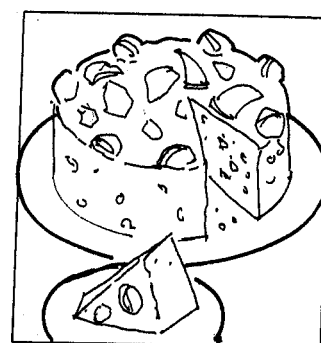
5 Spoon into a greased and lined 22cm cake tin.



6. Bake in a preheated oven for 45-60 mins. Until cooked through. Cover with foil if cake browns too soon.



7. Allow to stand for 10 mins., then remove From tin and allow to cool. Sprinkle with brandy if desired.



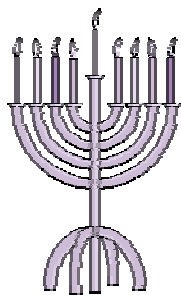
8. Use cherries or glace orange slices or glace melon to decorate or ice
Wrap in foil until ready to eat or ice



Scouts Own 2005



Date: 20 February 2005
 Venue: St Georges Cathedral Cape Town
 Time: 15h00. All to be seated by 14h45
 Guest Speaker: The Junior Mayor of Cape Town



All Cubs, Scouts, Scouters, Rovers, Parents and friends are invited to attend this Interfaith Service.



- ❖ Flag-parties and readers must please meet at 13h30.
- ❖ All to be seated by 14h45
- ❖ The collection will be donated to the Arch – a soup kitchen for the homeless.
- ❖ Scouters are asked to take the collection from the Cubs and Scouts before hand and place it in a money bag. This is to be dropped in the collection plate during the service.
- ❖ Packs and Troops will be contacted to provide Flag-Bearers for the World Flag, SA Flag and Area Cub and Scout Flags as well as readers.
- ❖ For more information please contact Area HQ.



Congratulations!

1. To the following Groups who celebrated their anniversaries recently:
 - ❖ 1st Heathfield – 25 years
 - ❖ 1st Wellington – 50 years
 - ❖ 1st Plumstead - 60 Years

Well done keep on providing good scouting in your communities

2. To all cubs and scouts who have successfully completed another year at school. May 2005 be even better than the past one.
3. To all scouts who will matriculate and move on to college, university or work next year.

Congratulations!



Congratulations!